



Our FUNDING

As a taxpayer-supported program, VA research must continue to demonstrate its value to the nation. Many of the VA's research achievements benefit the general population as well as veterans. During fiscal year 2002, VA research funds supported studies by more than 3,000 scientists at over 115 VA facilities across the country. VA research is an intramural program that funds studies focused on health concerns of veterans through a nationally competitive process of scientific merit review.

Figure I shows the recent growth in the VA research budget appropriation to support the direct costs of this work.

The Veterans Health Administration provides medical care funds for research infrastructure and indirect costs, such as clinician salaries, laboratory facilities, and support services. VA researchers expand their research support with grants from other federal and private agencies as well.

Fig. III

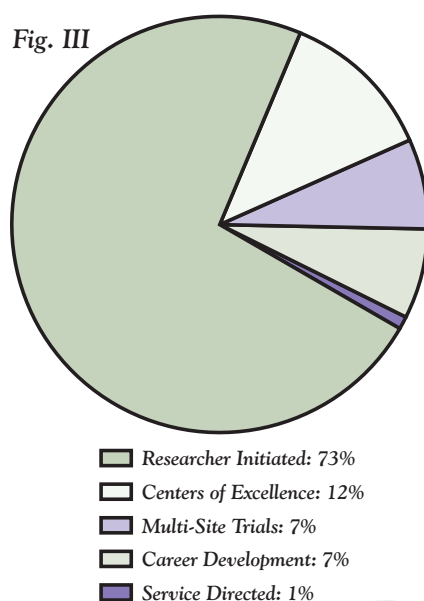


Fig. I

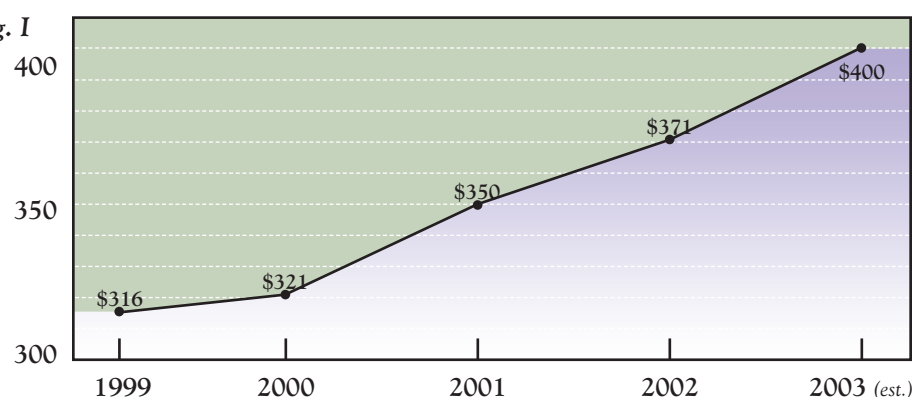


Figure II shows total VA research financial resources for the past several years and a projection for fiscal year 2003 (in millions).

The office of Research and Development allocates funds in support of research projects, with the largest portion devoted to investigator-initiated studies.

Fig. II

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 (est.)
Appropriation	315.7	321.0	350.0	371.0	400.0
Medical Care	325.9	344.8	356.0	377.0	396.0
Non-VA Sources	480.6	504.6	595.0	624.0	656.0
Total	1,122.2	1,170.4	1,301.0	1,372.0	1,452.0

Figure III illustrates how VA research funds were expended in 2002.